



# Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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## **MODESTO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF STOLEN GOLD AND METHAMPHETAMINE**

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL PARREIRA REGO, 26, of Modesto, Calif., pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge William B. Shubb to possession of gold nuggets stolen from the U.S. Mail and to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Modesto Police Department, the Stockton Police Department, and San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, REGO was driving through Modesto in the evening on Monday, January 7, 2008, when a uniformed Modesto Police Officer pulled him over for driving on a suspended license. At that time, REGO threw from his vehicle gold nuggets and coins and a bag containing methamphetamine packaged for sale. The gold nuggets and coins were later identified as items stolen from U.S. Mail registry bags.

REGO faces a maximum of 40 years in prison for the drug distribution charge and five years in prison for the stolen U.S. Mail charge. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

REGO is being held in custody until his sentencing on November 17, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.

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